

OFFICIAL MINUTES
The Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind Foundation, Inc. Meeting
September 13th, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beth Cram, Paula Mason, Kyla Kelly, Jeanne Marie Kopecky, &
Tom Jones, Misti Lockie, Janet Stout

ABSENT: Reid Lofgran, Gloria Sanchez, Mel Magnelli, Jeff Woods & Harv Lyter

GUESTS: Lorna Irwin, Katie Arnold, and Justin Call by phone

Minute Recorder: Misti Lockie

Paula opened the meeting at 3:00pm

Kyla began discussion with notifying board members of her attendance to the ALT team meeting. She told the board that she had asked that a member representative from ALT try to be in attendance at each Foundation meeting if possible to assist with the communication between the two entities. This would also assist with funding decisions if more information was readily available. At the ALT meeting, Gretchen Spooner and Janet Stout volunteered that at least one of them would attend whenever possible. In addition, a deaf member of administration is considering attending the board meetings as a deaf representative.

Paul notified members that Dr. Reid Lofgran was resigning from the board due to lack of time to attend.

Minutes from the July meeting were reviewed, and after clarifying the last name of Damon Jensen, Tom motioned to accept minutes, Beth 2nd. The July minutes were unanimously approved.

Tom asked if Albina Hernandez (a funding applicant from the last meeting) had received the services for which funding was approved. Paula stated that the services had been rendered over the summer, and that the funding was to pay for those. Paula said she would make sure a bill was sent to Tom so that it could be paid.

Tom reviewed financials, and a bit of discussion covered last year's calendar sales. There was a loss on the sale and members discussed perhaps doing away with that fundraiser because of its lack of success. Paula motioned to accept financials; Beth seconded.

Kyla suggested that this year the Board send out a direct mail letter for fundraising during the holiday season. Tom agreed that would be a much better idea than the calendars for potential amount of money to be raised. Misti said she would assist.

Utilizing the state employee deductions for fundraising was brought up again; Misti said she would be sure to follow up with Shelly Comstock.

Kyla mentioned that the web page needed the new financial statements posted; Tom said he had sent those in but would check to make sure. Misti also said she would get in touch with Marie Klingler on other web updates and getting access to the Foundation's email.

Paul discussed a bit about the 2006 Scholarships; Dustin Leppert chose not to use his scholarship because of the opportunity to take a job at a calf ranch that could offer him on-the-job training and certification in the field he is interested in. Therefore, the money allotted to him would be returned to the scholarship fund.

Paula gave an update on the Raptor Run. It was Saturday Sept 9 at the ISDB campus. Through donations all of the t-shirts, prizes and food was paid for. Numbers were down because of a conflicting event at Falls Brand Meats, which is where a lot of the regular participants work. Paula said she did get some photos; Beth said she would assist with thank you's; Misti will submit an Optimist article on the Run. Thank you's will count as the sponsor's receipt for deductions.

Funding Applicants:

Justin Call was interviewed by phone for his request for assistance for \$350 for hearing aid warranty. This would be a renewal for his current warranty. He said he had contacted VR, Medicaid, and every other option he could think of to obtain this money, but could not get assistance. It costs him \$350 each time he takes his hearing aids in for repair if the warranty has expired as opposed to \$350 once to continue the warranty.

Justin is a Music major at CSI and carries a 3.0 GPA. He is not currently working due to other responsibilities. Decision for his funding was tabled to the end of the meeting.

Lorna Irwin was in attendance from Idaho Hands & Voices, and was requesting funding to provide training for individuals who wish to volunteer as assistance with the organization. The training would happen at regional areas throughout the state. She had a detailed plan and budget for these trainings that she hoped could be funded. Her decision was tabled to the end as well.

Katie Arnold was in attendance to request funding for hearing aid molds that have already been created for her hearing aids. She was under the impression her Medicaid would cover these molds and therefore ordered them; however, Medicaid refused to pay and now she owes \$120 on the molds. Katie works at McDonalds, has other independent living training, and is attending CSI. Her decision was tabled to the end.

Jessica submitted a funding request but was not in attendance because she lives in Northern Idaho. She is attending school now at LCSC, but does not have enough money to cover her tuition and dorm room and board expenses. She is asking for the Foundation to provide funding assistance for this semester to cover her outstanding bill. Jessica's mother recently passed away from cancer, and she was unable to get any transition guidance when she was completing high school. There is a Voc Rehab counselor assisting her now to complete this request and other funding options. If she does not receive some funding assistance by 9/28, she will be unable to continue attending school.

The Board began discussion about her situation, and decided that it may not fit in exactly with the policies for funding that the Board has established. However, because of the return of Dustin Leppert's scholarship monies, the board decided that an emergency senior scholarship of \$500 could be made on a one-time-only basis. The monies would be given directly to LCSC to go toward Jessica's outstanding bill. Beth made a motion that a \$500 emergency scholarship be awarded to Jessica, and Paula seconded. The Board wanted to emphasize that this is not an ordinary occurrence or ordinary circumstances, and that scholarships such as this would not be funded on a regular basis.

The Board then discussed decision upon the Idaho Hands & Voices funding request. Janet commented that this is a critical program for parent support with a non-biased approach. The board discussed that it would be great to assist and that an initial funding of \$2500 could be made, and if that did not cover all her expenses (such as for interpreters) then an additional request could be made. The Raptor Run t-shirts could be donated for door prizes.

Paula made a motion that \$2500 plus Raptor Run t-shirts (for door prizes) be provided to Idaho Hands & Voices for their training sessions. Beth seconded, and the motion passed.

For Katie Arnold, the board discussed the value of Katie implementing and following through with a payment plan to learn some life skills from this occurrence. The board also noted how impressed they were that Katie had the courage to come and attend the meeting, as it was obviously noticeably difficult for her. Jeanne-Marie made a motion that \$60 be used from the Raptor Fund to pay half of Katie's molds, and that a payment plan be set up for the remaining \$60. Beth seconded.

The discussion around Justin Call centered upon the idea that the board members, or Gayle the audiologist from ISDB, needed to review the warranty and determine its value. All members felt that possibly a better warranty could be obtained, or at least this warranty should be verified. Beth motioned that pending review of the warranty, half of it or \$175 could be paid by the foundation. Jeanne Marie seconded. At that time Beth motioned that the meeting be adjourned as it was 5:25 pm. Paula seconded.